



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/693,437	10/20/2000	Kerry Mok	426882001800	8707
35452	7590	07/28/2004	EXAMINER	
ACCENTURE C/O MORRISON & FOERSTER 755 PAGE MILL ROAD PALO ALTO, CA 94304			BACKER, FIRMIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/693,437	Applicant(s) MOK ET AL.	
	Examiner Firmin Backer	Art Unit 3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

This is in response to a request for reconsideration file on May 25th, 2004 for letter for patent filed on October 20th, 2000 in which claims 1-62 were presented for examination. In the amendment, no claim has been amended, no claim has been canceled, and no claim has been added. Claims 1-62 remain pending in the letter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stewarts (*U.S PG Pub. 2001/0049634 A1*).

3. As per claims 1, 16 and 31, Stewart teaches a method facilitated by a computer network (*steel electronic commerce system, fig 1*) to accomplish a trusted transaction between a business entity (*seller*) and a networked consumer (*buyer*), (*see abstract, figs 1, 2*) comprising providing an administrative server (*interactive online steel marketplace*) having a communications channel for electronically communicating (*communication network*) with the business entity and having a

Art Unit: 3621

communications channel for electronically communicating with a networked entity and the networked consumer (*see paragraphs 0020*) providing a business registration system (*registered seller member*) in the administrative server wherein the business entity can be authenticated and a unique identifier is assigned to the business entity (BEID) whereby the business entity is designated a registered business entity (*see paragraphs 0024*) allowing the registered business entity to selectively access the administrative server to submit details of products (*sheet metal information*) and/or services provided by the registered business entity (*seller*) and to view selections made by the networked consumer wherein the administrative server will store the details of products and/or services provided by the registered business entity (*see paragraphs 0026, 0027*) providing a networked entity registration system in the administrative server wherein the networked entity can be authenticated, whereby the networked entity is designated a registered networked entity (*see paragraph 0029*) and providing a networked consumer registration system in the administrative server whereby a networked consumer who has authorized access to a registered networked entity's system can be designated a registered consumer and assigned a unique registered consumer identifier (RCID), and whereby a registered consumer with a valid RCID will be allowed access to data provided by a registered business entity and to make selections on the data, the selections being stored in the administrative server (*see paragraph 0026, 0027, 0040-0083*). Furthermore Stewart teaches a method of allowing the registered networked entity to selectively access the details of the group benefits plans provided by a registered business entity and to endorse the group benefits plans wherein the administrative server will store the group benefits plans endorsed by the networked entity (*see paragraph 0026, 0027, 0038*).

4. As per claims 2, 3, 17, 18, 32, 33, Stewart teaches a method wherein the registered consumer has authorized access to the registered networked entity's system through the registered networked entity's infra-network system or through an internet system (*see abstract, figs 1, 2*).
5. As per claims 4, 19, 34, Stewart teaches a method further comprising the act of providing an on-line payment system where a registered consumer/networked can make payments to a business entity for goods and/or services selected by the registered consumer (*see paragraph 0038*).
6. As per claims 5, 20, 35, Stewart teaches a method wherein the communications channels employ a secure socket layer protocol (*see paragraph 0020*).
7. As per claims 6, 12, 21, 27, 36, 42, Stewart teaches a method wherein the identifiers comprise an e-mail address and a password (*see paragraph 0073*).
8. As per claims 7-9, 13-15, 22-24, 28-30, 37-39, 43-45, Stewart teaches a method wherein a process for designating a business entity as a registered business/consumer/networked entity, comprising the acts of receiving registration information from the business/consumer/networked entity including an email address of a contact person for the business/consumer/networked entity; authenticating the business entity; assigning a password to the business, consumer

Art Unit: 3621

networked entity; and electronically sending the password to the received e-mail address (*see paragraph 0026, 0027, 0040-0083, 0107*).

9. As per claims 10, 25, 40, Stewart teaches a method wherein the authentication is accomplished by exchanging digital certificates (*is it inherent*).

10. As per claims 11, 26, 41, Stewart teaches a method further comprising the act of authenticating the registered networked entity prior to designating the networked consumer as a registered consumer (*see paragraphs 0020*).

11. As per claims 46, Stewart teaches a system under the control of a business entity facilitating a trusted transaction with a networked consumer, the system comprising: a business entity server (*see abstract, figs 1, 2*); an electronic communicating mechanism for providing the business entity server access to a server-to-server electronic communication channel (*see paragraphs 0020*); an authenticating system coupled to the business entity server for facilitating an authentication process of the business entity when the networked entity server is accessing the electronic communication channel (*see paragraphs 0024*); and a mechanism for outputting registration information wherein the outputting of the registration information initiates the authentication process of the business entity, and for receiving a business entity identifier, wherein outputting the business entity identifier allows details of products and/or services to be outputted to the electronic communication channel and further allows selections of products

Art Unit: 3621

and/or services made by the networked consumer to be received from the electronic communication channel (*see paragraphs 0026, 027*).

12. As per claims 47, 51, Stewart teaches a system wherein the authenticating system employs a digital certificate authenticating protocol (*see paragraph 0029*).

13. As per claims 48, 52, Stewart teaches a system wherein the electronic communication mechanism employs the secure socket layer protocol (*see abstract, figs 1, 2*).

14. As per claims 49, 53, Stewart teaches a system wherein the business entity identifier is an e-mail address of a contact person for the business entity and a password (*see paragraphs 0107*).

15. As per claims 50, Stewart teaches a system wherein the networked consumer has authorized access to an infra-network system of a networked entity (*see paragraphs 0024*).

16. As per claims 54, Stewart teaches a system under the control of a networked entity facilitating a trusted transaction between a business entity and a networked consumer, the system comprising: a networked entity server (*see abstract, figs 1, 2*); a system for facilitating an electronic connection of the networked entity server to a PC via a network system (*see paragraphs 0020*); a communication mechanism for providing networked entity server access to a server-to-server electronic communication channel (*see paragraphs 0024*); an authenticating system coupled to the networked entity server for facilitating an authentication process of the

Art Unit: 3621

networked entity when the networked entity server is accessing the electronic communication channel (*see paragraphs 0026, 027*); a mechanism for outputting networked entity registration information and for receiving a networked entity identifier, wherein the outputting of the networked entity registration information initiates the authentication process; and a mechanism for allowing the PC to access the electronic communication channel to output networked consumer registration information wherein the outputting of the networked consumer registration information initiates the authentication process of the networked entity, and for allowing the PC to receive a registered consumer identifier wherein an outputting of the registered consumer identifier allows the PC to receive details of products and/or services and to make selections on the products and/or services (*see paragraph 0026, 0027, 0040-0083*).

17. As per claims 55, 56, 59, 60, Stewart teaches a system wherein the network/internet system is an intranetwork system a local area network system/ a wide area network (*see paragraphs 0020*).

18. As per claims 57, Stewart teaches a system wherein the authenticating system employs the digital certificate authenticating protocol (*see paragraphs 0026, 027*).

19. As per claims 58, Stewart teaches a system wherein the communicating mechanism employs the secure socket layer protocol (*see paragraph 0026, 0027, 0040-0083*).

Art Unit: 3621

20. As per claims 61, Stewart teaches a system wherein an authorized access requires submission of a proper login ID and password (*see paragraphs 0107*

21. As per claims 62, Stewart teaches a system wherein the identifiers comprise an e-mail address and password (*see paragraph 0026, 0027, 0040-0083, 0107*).

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments filed May 25th, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the prior art (Stewart) fail to teach an inventive concept wherein a network entity determining who can be a registered consumer. Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's characterization of the prior art. Stewart teach among other thing an inventive concept wherein during a member registration process parameters are set in order to determine which type member they will be, either a buyer or a seller. In some instances, a buyer may also be qualified as a seller to other buyers of certain products. Furthermore, Stwart teach means for identifying each of the community members according to predetermined profile selection criteria, the community members including at least seller members and buyer members. At least one seller computer communicates with the controller and is programmed to provide seller business information from such seller members and is accessible by at least one of the buyer members. Also means are provided for displaying the selected seller business information to the buyer members according to the identification means. The seller business information includes at

Art Unit: 3621

least product information, manufacturing lead time and transportation information, wherein a catalog of seller products are available for review by the buyer members. Therefore, the prior art teach a network entity determining who can be a registered consumer according to the profile registered in the system.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

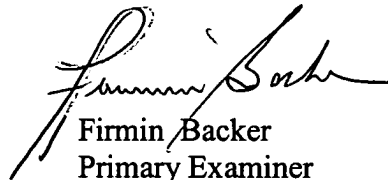
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

Art Unit: 3621

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Firmin Backer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3621

July 26, 2004